

Message Text

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IO:SLEWIS

P:JJSISCO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 303526

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE, US, UN

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE UNSC MEETING ON TERRORISM

FOR CHARGE FROM SISCO

1. WE ARE, OF COURSE, INTERESTED IN THE VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL THAT A SPECIAL UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION BE HELD ON THE SUBJECT OF TERRORISM IN THE WAKE OF THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE OPEC MINISTERS. IT OCCURS TO US, HOWEVER, THAT A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION REQUIRES EXTENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING PREPARATION, DURING WHICH THE EFFECT OF THE OPEC AFFAIR WILL TEND TO DISSIPATE, AND WE WONDER IF THE VENEZUELAN MIGHT NOT WANT TO CONSIDER A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING INSTEAD. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ANY APPEARANCE OF OUR WANTING TO TAKE OVER THIS INITIATIVE WOULD TEND TO DISCOURAGE THE VENEZUELAN AND OTHERS FROM PROCEEDING, BUT SINCE THEY HAVE ASKED FOR OUR SUPPORT WE HAVE A BASIS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH

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THEM. OUR APPROACH SHOULD BE VERY LOW-KEY.

2. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE, APPROACH HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, SAYING THAT WITH OUR LONG HISTORY OF OPPOSITION TO TERRORISM WE NATURALLY WELCOME EFFORTS TO BRING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM AND TO THE MEANS OF DEALING WITH IT. WITHOUT

WANTING IN ANY WAY TO INJECT OURSELVES INTO THE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE, WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FURTHER WHAT THE VENEZUELAN HAVE IN MIND AND TO PASS ALONG THE THOUGHT THAT, IF THEY SHOULD WISH TO INVOLVE THE UN, THEY MIGHT CONSIDER A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION WOULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO PREPARE, INVOLVING AS IT DOES THE POLLING OF ALL UN MEMBERS, AND IN SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS IT CAN BE USEFUL TO MOVE QUICKLY WHILE THE EVENT GIVING RISE TO THE UN ACTIVITY IS FRESH IN EVERYONE'S MIND. OUR THOUGHT IS THAT A COUNCIL MEETING CAN BE ORGANIZED QUITE QUICKLY AND COULD CAPITALIZE ON WIDESPREAD REACTION TO THE OPEC AFFAIR. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS ENTIRELY UP TO VENEZUELAN.

3. IF THE VENEZUELAN ASK WHETHER WE WOULD SUPPORT CONVOKING THE COUNCIL ON THIS SUBJECT, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT IT IS OUR STANDING POSITION THAT A UN MEMBER WANTING TO BRING A MATTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION THERE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO. ROBINSON

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